The strength of Judges of the Gawahati High Court, including its six Benches, and the pendency of cases are as under:—

S.No.	State	Strength No. Judges	Pendency 1.5.2002
1.	Assam	7	37,116
2.	Meghalaya	2	1,071
3.	Nagaland	2	536
4.	Manipur	2	7,260
5.	Tripura	3	4,295
6.	Mizoram	2	350
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1,282

The Government has endeavoured constantly to bring about improvements in the functioning of courts with a view to simplifying procedures and delivering cost effective and speedy justice. The Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the Judge strength from time to time, the Government has also set up/encouraged alternative modes of disposal including conciliation, mediation, and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts, etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the litigants/ Advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Various steps have also been taken by the courts, like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches and organising Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc.

Abuse of CJ of Patna High Court

1907. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of Law and Justice be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lawyers of the Patna High Court abused the Chief Justice of Patna High Court in Court Hall while he was pronouncing a Judgement;

(b) if so, the details of the shocking incident; and

(c) the action taken by Government and the Bar Council of Patna High Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

River Transport in Ganga

1908. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to begin river transport on Ganga between Allahabad and Haldia;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to carry out necessary dredging of the river in the above stretch to facilitate riverine movement;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to operate commercial services on the above riverine route; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The river Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia has been declared as National Waterway No. 1 and basic infrastructural facilities, namely, navigable channel, navigational aids and terminals are being provided on the waterway to enable transport by inland vessels. For making navigable channel with desired depth, dredging is carried out during the low water season at the shallow patches in stretches whenever it is possible.

(c) and (d)The Central Inland Water Transport Corporation operates commercial service by inland vessels on the waterway. Other operators, private or public can also operate their inland vessels.